

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W
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R 311900Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6376

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 8742

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINT, PFOR, CI, UK

SUBJ: BRITISH SUBJECT SHEILA CASSIDY

REFS: A) SANTIAGO 8719 B) SANTIAGO 8505

1. SUMMARY: THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAS RECALLED BY HIS GOVERNMENT IN PROTEST AGAINST THE ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF SHEILA CASSIDY. HER ACCOUNT OF HER TORTURE PROBABLY WILL NEVER BE PROVED OR DISPROVED CONCLUSIVELY. EMBASSY FINDS IT CREDIBLE THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES SHE COULD HAVE BEEN TORTURED AND NOTES THAT UK EMBASSY HERE BELIEVES SHE WAS. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH AMBASSADOR LEFT SANTIAGO DECEMBER 30 ON RECALL BY HMG. BEFORE DEPARTURE, HE SENT FIRST-PERSON NOTE TO FON MIN CARVAJAL TRANSMITTING MESSAGE FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN. MESSAGE SAID CALLAGHAN WAS "DISTRESSED AND APPALLED" AT SHEILA CASSIDY'S ACCOUNT OF HER MALTREATMENT AND TORTURE AT HANDS OF GOC SECURITY POLICE. HE PROTESTED IN "STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS" THE "INHUMAN METHODS" USED ON CASSIDY AND ASKED GOC TO MAKE FULL INQUIRY OF POLICE BEHAVIOR. IN MEAN-TIME, HE ANNOUNCED RECALL BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

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3. BRITISH CHARGE TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG HIS AMBASSADOR WOULD BE ABSENT. HE ALSO SHOWED US STATEMENT BY PARLIAMENTARY UNDERSECRETARY WHO MET CASSIDY IN UK TO EFFECT THAT HMG HAD NOT TAKEN UP TORTURE CHARGES WITH GOC UNTIL SHE HAD BEEN RELEASED, SINCE DOING SO EARLIER MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO HER DETRIMENT. STATEMENT ACCUSED POLICE OF HAVING "STRIPPED HER AND GIVEN HER SEVERE ELECTRIC SHOCKS."

4. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICERS SAY THAT CASSIDY'S STATEMENTS ON HER MISTREATMENT HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT, AND THAT THEY BELIEVE HER. SHE REPORTEDLY WENT THROUGH THREE SEPARATE SESSIONS OF ELECTRIC SHOCK (REF B), IN WHICH SHE WAS STRIPPED AND THROWN ON A BED. SHE SAID THE SHOCK TREATMENT INVOLVED HER GENITALS, AND THE SESSIONS INCLUDED MORE THAN ONE SHOCK. IN ADDITION, SHE WAS SLAPPED OFTEN, FONDLED ROUGHLY, SUBJECTED TO OBSCENITIES.

5. COMMENT: GOC PRESS PEPORIS CHILEAN EMBASSY LONDON HAS DENIED TORTURE CHARGES. PROBABLY THEY WILL NEVER BE CONCLUSIVELY PROVED OR DISPROVED, BUT THEY ARE BOUND TO HAVE A NEGATIVE POLITICAL IMPACT.

6. EMBASSY FINDS CASSIDY CHARGE CREDIBLE IN CONTEXT OF GOC INTERNAL SECURITY PROCEDURES. SECURITY FORCES APPARENTLY BELIEVED SHE HAD INFORMATION THAT COULD LEAD THEM TO FUGITIVE LEADERS OF EXTREMIST MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT, WHO WERE WANTED VERY BADLY, AND TO HAVE TREATED HER ROUGHLY FOR THIS REASON.
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